



Power Over Death

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“And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: 23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry” (Matthew 17:22-23).

By prophesying of His death and resurrection, Jesus demonstrated that these were not only pre-planned by God but also that He had power over death. “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again....**” (John 10:17-18). Death is not the end of human existence. There is life beyond death “... as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). The benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection include:

- 1) **Salvation from sin:** “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:18-19).
- 2) **Destruction of Satanic works:** “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)
- 3) **Public disgrace of Satan:** “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15).
- 4) **Impartation of victory:** “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- 5) **Deliverance from bondage:** “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of

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the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

- 6) **Provision of abundant life:** “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
- 7) **The hope of resurrection:** “Behold, I shew you a mystery... we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**” (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

Had the disciples understood these, they would not have been “exceeding sorry” (vs 23) about Jesus’ prophecy. It is this understanding that made Paul to say “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.... 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you” (Philippians 1:21-24).

Christ’s victory over death should empower us to live life to the full and serve God “In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life” (Luke 1:75); as well as glorify Him in life and in death!